



FEMA

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MANY PARTNERS CARRY THE LOAD IN KENTUCKY ICE STORM RESPONSE

ATLANTA – Teamwork is the best way to describe the ongoing relief effort in Kentucky following the ice storm that was declared a major federal disaster Thursday.

The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are aided by Commonwealth agencies, both local and state, along with federal and volunteer-agency partners to help the 93 counties currently covered by the major federal disaster declaration.

At the Commonwealth level, KYEM is fulfilling its response and coordination role, with help from the Kentucky National Guard. The National Guard continues making house-to-house checks for unmet needs. Three state-run staging areas in Paducah, Greenville and Owensboro are channeling vital supplies to people in distress.

“I can’t say enough about the tremendous response our counties have shown during this disaster,” said KYEM Director John Heltzel. “We have a great team on the local, state and federal levels, making sure Kentuckians are getting the care they need.”

To date, FEMA has delivered 119 truckloads of water and 62 truckloads of meals to Kentucky from depots as far away as Maryland, Texas and Georgia. This aid converges first at Fort Campbell then goes to Commonwealth staging areas for delivery to individual households by KYEM and the National Guard.

The Logistics branch of FEMA, specializing in the movement of such commodities and equipment, has processed more than 700 requests for direct federal assistance under the emergency declaration.

“The key to a good response is to keep a large network working smoothly,” said Kim Kadesch, in charge of the Kentucky operation for FEMA as federal coordinating officer. “We have great support from all of our federal agencies in the Kentucky response.”

Among the partners cooperating to help Kentucky:

- **Ten state emergency management agencies** – Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Wisconsin – have sent more than 600 personnel, cots with bedding, wood chippers, generators, communications equipment, dump trucks and other large equipment to help move trees and debris.

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- **Voluntary organizations** under the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster are working with the American Red Cross, which has shelters and kitchens across Kentucky, the Southern Baptist Convention with its large mobile kitchens, the Salvation Army operating canteen trucks and other services, and a variety of other volunteer partners.
- **U.S. Department of Transportation** is identifying transportation infrastructure problems and troubleshooting such matters as expediting waivers for trucks involved in relief work.
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** is installing emergency generators at critical facilities. Emergency route clearance is being conducted in 21 counties.
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** is fielding community health assessment teams to determine needs and plan recovery.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** is monitoring food stocks at schools used as temporary emergency shelters; checking possible needs for pet sheltering; clearing downed trees in two national forests; sawing emergency firewood for residents without power.
- **U.S. Department of Energy** is tracking the number of power outages by consolidating customer lists from large power companies, municipal providers and small cooperatives. As of Friday afternoon, approximately 106,000 customers were without power, down from 700,000 at the peak.
- **U.S. Department of Defense** has expedited the delivery of 40,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 40,000 of gasoline from the Defense Energy Support Center to meet federal and state needs.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

Additional information about this disaster is available at www.fema.gov and www.kyem.ky.gov.

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